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August 24th, 2022

The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin,

I write today regarding Virginia's implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

For decades, disadvantaged communities in Virginia have lacked access to clean water and drinking water as their water supply has been polluted by industrial chemicals, pesticide runoff, corrosion from lead pipes, and other contaminants. These communities have also lacked the resources needed to compete for traditional state water loans.

Historic investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law offer our Commonwealth an unprecedented opportunity to upgrade our infrastructure, improve our water quality, and address these disparities. The majority of water infrastructure funding is dedicated to the EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which provide low-cost financing for local water projects across the country. Notably, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law specifies that 49 percent of Drinking Water General Supplemental Funding and Lead Service Line Replacement Funding should go to disadvantaged communities.

In December 2021, EPA Administrator Regan sent a letter urging you to target State Revolving Funds to disadvantaged communities that are facing water supply problems. In this letter, he also addressed the need to accelerate lead service-line replacement, particularly in environmental justice communities with the highest lead levels. In addition, Administrator Regan's letter emphasized the need to protect families from exposure to emerging contaminants such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

EPA issued national program guidance in the form of a memorandum to states on the implementation of the State Revolving Funds titled "Implementation of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" in March 2022. This guidance includes an expectation to engage residents and community stakeholders in disadvantaged communities so they can benefit from technical assistance and funding, and an

expectation that states will take action to increase investment in these communities. As your administration moves forward with implementation of the State Revolving Funds, I urge you to utilize this guidance and work collaboratively with EPA for the benefit of our communities.

You have frequently expressed your intent for the government to work for all Virginians across our diverse Commonwealth. This involves prioritizing needs of communities that have been historically underserved. I encourage you to leverage competencies of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice to center environmental justice considerations in the implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.

It is past time for disadvantaged communities to benefit equitably from infrastructure investments, and I look forward to hearing from you on how you intend to ensure that the Commonwealth is adhering to this guidance.

Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Encl: EPA Memorandum "Implementation of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law"